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BOOK REVIEWS

Moundville Revisited. Crystal River Revisited. Mounds of the Lower Chattahoochee and Lower Flint Rivers. Notes on the Ten Thousand Islands, Florida. By CLARENCE B. MOORE. Reprint from the *Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, Vol. XIII. 4°, iv, 337-476 pp., ill.

This reprint includes an account of Mr Moore's most recent mound researches, and is the sixteenth issue of the series of works treating of his explorations in the Southern states. The first section embraces the results of a second visit to Moundville, Alabama, and contains a large amount of valuable matter. Of particular importance is the apparently conclusive proof of the existence among the ancient occupants of the site of a specific disease affecting the bones which has not heretofore been definitely fixed upon the pre-European population. In all of his explorations in the Moundville district Mr Moore has encountered no single object that can be attributed to the whites or that bears traces of their influence, rendering untenable the view that the specific disease could have become so decidedly prevalent in a native community through contact with the whites without the acquirement by them of articles of European origin.

Reexploration of the mounds partially excavated during the former visit yielded rather meager results, but the work among the cemeteries and dwelling sites was more productive, and many articles of great interest were unearthed. The designs on the earthenware and on the shell and copper ornaments are especially noteworthy as illustrating the practice of employing mythologic motives in the embellishment of works of art. Prominent among these designs are the cross, — taking in cases the form of the swastika, — the human hand with the open eye in the palm, the man eagle, the winged serpent, and the eye-like device, the significance of which is as yet a matter of controversy. The winged serpent assumes a great variety of forms, extending from realistic delineations down through many degrees of convention to the simple current scroll.

The Crystal River mounds on the west coast of Florida, which had been largely worked out during previous visits, yielded many objects of interest, but, with the exception of a copper ear ornament plated with

meteoric iron, they are not markedly different from those previously described. As with the Moundville explorations, the observations regarding modes of burial and the association of objects of art with the mounds and with the dead are of peculiar value.

On the Chattahoochee and Flint rivers a large number of burial mounds, mostly of small size, were excavated without particularly noteworthy results. Mounds as well as small cemeteries and dwelling sites occasionally yielded objects of European origin, as bits of glass and ornaments of brass, further emphasizing the already well-established fact that mound-building by the tribes continued down to Colonial times.

It is gratifying to know that Mr Moore is still energetically pursuing and promptly reporting his researches, and that still other contributions may be expected to his already remarkable series of monographs.

W. H. HOLMES.

Kinship Organizations and Group Marriage in Australia. By NORTHCOTE W. THOMAS, M.A. Cambridge: At the University Press, 1906. (Cambridge Archæological and Ethnological Series.) 8°, 163 pp.

An ethnological desideratum of long standing, a handbook of the social organizations of Australian tribes, has been partially supplied by this little work. Whatever may be the merits of the particular theories supported by Mr Thomas, he has done excellent service in bringing the principal results of the work of a number of investigators into a limited compass and in presenting at a glance with the aid of charts a fairly accurate idea of the distribution of various systems. This cartographical method of presentation deserves to be extended to all branches of anthropological investigation, for there is nothing that so well enables the reader to form an idea of the condition of a certain area at any given time or is so suggestive in the search for origins.

A proper understanding of Australian social systems demands more study than most American anthropologists are able to give to them, yet a knowledge of them is of great importance to anyone who would arrive at a proper appreciation of the position of American systems and quite indispensable to him who attempts an investigation of the social condition of primitive tribes generally. Although differing very greatly in different parts of the continent, certain features always come out as distinctively Australian, at least as compared with systems of North American tribes. One is the almost universal presence of exogamic divisions, another the minute manner in which the marriage of an Australian is lim-